

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claims 1, 8 and 15** relates to pellicles. Notably, the pellicles comprise a fluoropolymer satisfying the following requirement:

in the measurement of a high resolution proton magnetic resonance spectrum of said fluoropolymer, a number of hydrogen atoms based on signals appearing on a magnetic field side higher than 2.8 ppm, is **at most 6 mol%** based on a total number of hydrogen atoms.

Example 6 of Matsukura et al uses fluoropolymer (A) prepared according to Example 1 of Matsukura et al. Applicants hereby submit a Rule 132 Declaration showing that the fluoropolymer (A) of Matsukura et al is outside the scope of the claimed pellicle because fluoropolymer (A) of the reference does not satisfy the above requirement of the fluoropolymer of Claims 1, 8, and 15. Notably, a number of hydrogen atoms based on signals appearing on a magnetic field side higher than 2.8 ppm, is **6.4 mol%** based on a total number of hydrogen atoms, and **not at most 6.0 mol% as claimed**.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Matsukura et al. (US 2001/0024701 A1) and the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Matsukura et al (US 2001/0024701 A1), are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 7, 14 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of these Claims.

The objection to the abstract is obviated by the new abstract. A copy of the new abstract has been provided on a separate sheet, attached herewith.

Application No.: 10/634,877

Reply to the Office Action dated: July 22, 2004

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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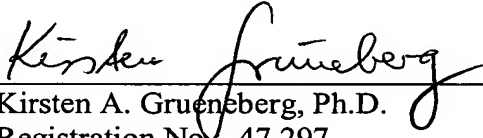
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